Times Remembered

Composed in the spring of 2009, this ballad for band was composed in honor of the first two band directors at Ramsey Junior High School, Fort Smith, Arkansas. Between them, Audra Cowan and Duane Walker served the Ramsey Junior High Band for 52 years. Their dedication to the musical development of literally thousands of children influenced and inspired all those who were in the Ramsey Band during their tenures. Times Remembered reflects on their selfless devotion to teaching and, most importantly, their ability to touch the souls of their students through music. The late eighteenth-century German philosopher and historian Friedrich Schiller once wrote, "He who has done his best for his own time has lived for all times." Audra Cowan and Duane Walker's commitment to excellence in music and their dedication to developing young musicians will surely live "for all times." Times Remembered was premiered by the Ramsey Junior High School Band May 5, 2009, John Combs, conductor.

La Fiesta de San Antonio

1. La Villita 1:59
2. El Paseo del Rio and El Mercado 4:14
3. Times Remembered 5:46
4. Crossed Sabres 3:39
5. A Civil War Saga 3:48

Gazebo Portraits

6. Promenade 2:06
7. Love Song 2:13
8. Waltz 1:50
9. Solace 5:23

The Trailblazers: Lewis and Clark

10. Scene I – Introduction: Lewis and Clark and Scene II – York and the Missouri River 2:43
11. Scene III – Seaman's Chase 0:58
12. Scene IV – Sacagawea's Lullaby 2:04
13. Scene V – Cruzatte's Reel 1:36
14. Scene VI – Ocean in View! Oh! the Joy! 2:06
15. Guns Up! 3:20

All music was recorded by Omega Sound, Jason Johnson, engineer. The recording session took place at Van Buren High School Fine Arts Center, Van Buren, Arkansas on June 8 and 9, 2009. Crossed Sabres and Guns Up! were previously recorded by Mark Records in San Antonio, Texas.

Times Remembered

The Music of Charles L. Booker, Jr. Vol. 3

Performed by the River Valley Community Band

La Fiesta de San Antonio

La Fiesta de San Antonio was commissioned by the Marshall High School Band in San Antonio, Texas to honor their Director of Bands, Rey Meza and his wife, Gloria. Mr. Meza retired at the end of the school year 2006-2007 after having taught grades five to twelve during his thirty-seven years in Texas public schools. This colorful piece consists of three sections that musically describe San Antonio, Texas. After the introduction, the first section represents "La Villita," the little village of San Antonio; the second section, "El Paseo del Rio" describes the romantic river walk along the San Antonio River. Finally, the third section, "El Mercado," the market place, describes the fiery music of the mariachi bands. La Fiesta de San Antonio was premiered May 15, 2007 in San Antonio, Texas by the Marshall High School Band, George DeRocher, conductor.

Crossed Sabres

Crossed Sabres was commissioned by the U.S. Army's 16th Cavalry Regiment stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Composed in 1996, the march begins with a short fanfare quoting "The General's March." The first and second strains were composed to represent the esprit de corps of the Cavalry. The trio begins with an introduction using material from the old song "The Girl I Left Behind Me." The theme of the trio was inspired by bugle calls; the snare drum solo on the rim of the drum foreshadows the woodwind obbligato featured later in the grandioso rendition of the trio. During the break-up section, note the bass drum solo, which answers the Cavalry's call to "draw" sabres. The woodwinds are featured during the first hearing of the grandioso strain, and the full band fortissimo represents the final gallop to the end. Recorded by the Southern Music Wind Symphony, Dr. Mark Rogers, conductor.

Civil War Saga

Civil War Saga was composed in the spring of 2008 for the Prairie Grove High School Band in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Prairie Grove Battlefield National Park. The piece is a musical representation of The Battle of Prairie Grove fought December 7, 1862 in Northwest Arkansas. Even though the battle resulted in a tactical stalemate, it essentially secured northwest Arkansas for the Union. The clarinets present the main theme, gravely foretelling the soldier's fate. A short interlude follows and the troops begin steadily marching toward the battle. After a large drum roll (artillery barrage), the pace picks up quickly as the troops march double time to form their battle lines ("Troops On Line"). On the outskirts of Prairie Grove, the Union Army stands at the bottom of the ridge, and at the top the Confederates lay waiting behind fences and trees. When the Union army advances to the top of the ridge ("To the Ridgeline"), they find themselves under a fierce Confederate counterattack from three sides. Half of the attacking Federals are wounded or killed within minutes. As the surviving Union soldiers roll back down the hill toward the safety of their lines, Confederate soldiers spontaneously pursue ("Charge") and attempt to break the Union's lines. But Union artillery loaded with canister shot cause terrible damage to the unorganized Confederates and their attack fails. Later, new Union forces arrive slamming into the Confederates, resulting in heavy casualties. Civil War Saga was premiered by the Prairie Grove High School Band on January 9, 2009, Gerry Nichols, conductor.

Gazebo Portraits

The title of this piece conjures a Saturday afternoon band concert in the park in the early 1900s. Wind bands have never wavered in their commitment to audience accessibility while maintaining a high level of artistry. *Gazebo Portraits* composed in the fall of 2003 for the Hot Springs Community Band, recreates the mood, the sounds, and the excitement of these outdoor concerts from years gone by and salutes the continuation of these concerts by community bands throughout the United States today. The three movements include "Promenade," "Love Song," and finally, "Waltz." *Gazebo Portraits* is dedicated to Harvey McIntyre, president of the Hot Springs Community Band and was premiered at the Association of Concert Bands Convention in May of 2004 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Dr. Craig Hamilton, conductor.

Solace

Commissioned by the Warren High School Band of Warren, Texas, this commemorative piece celebrating the life of music student John Shear begins in d minor with four chords representing the four points of the Christian cross. Halfway through the piece, the music changes to F Major to signify a celebration of John Shear's life. There is an original hymn that is used in both minor and major keys and a short mournful two bar phrase (measures 39-44 and later in measure 83) that signifies a sigh of sadness and resignation. The constant moving eighth notes are used throughout the piece, evoking a sense of forward motion reflecting the constant flow of the "river" of life. This piece premiered on May 13, 2006, by the Warren High School Band, Russell Hopkins, conductor.

The Trailblazers

The Trailblazers is dedicated to the Joso Gakuin High School Band, Ibaraki, Japan, Tomoo Motozu, conductor, who premiered the piece at the Arkansas Bandmasters Association Conference in 2004. The piece is a suite of musical settings about the brave members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the years 1803-1806.

Scene I - Introduction: "Lewis and Clark"

Scene II "York and the Missouri River" (William) Clark and his life-long slave, "Ben" York were roughly the same age. On October 29, 1803, York and Clark, with nine other men from Kentucky, stepped aboard the expedition's keelboat on a great journey to the Pacific Ocean. York was the first black man to cross the continent north of Mexico. Forced to leave his family behind to accompany Clark, the music captures York's sense of despondency and helplessness as he stares into the endless Missouri River and contemplates the incredible voyage into the wilderness he and these other explorers are about to undertake.

Scene III – "Seaman's Chase" Lewis purchased Seaman, his "dogg of the Newfoundland breed" to accompany the expedition. He was black in color, and considered to be "our dog" by all members of the expedition. The music characterizes Seaman's chase of the squirrel who is reluctant to be his dinner.

Scene IV – "Sacagawea's Lullaby" The expedition added to its numbers French Canadian Toussaint Charbonneau, his wife Sacagawea, and their infant son Jean Baptiste, during the second season of travel (April –December 1805). Sacagawea ("bird woman"), a Shoshone woman who had been captured by the Hidatsa tribe and then sold to Charbonneau, offered invaluable help as an interpreter and peacemaker. Sacagawea was the only woman to accompany the 33 members of the expedition to the Pacific and back.

Scene V – "Cruzatte's Reel" Pierre Cruzatte was of French and Omaha Indian extraction. Formerly a fur trader along the Missouri River, Cruzatte was a small wiry man with one eye. He entertained the explorers with his fiddle-playing, keeping spirits high. On New Year's Day 1805, Cruzatte and members of the group carried "a fiddle & a Tambereen & a Sounden Horn" (tin, with a brass reed) across the river to the Mandan Indian Village, entertaining the villagers with their singing, dancing and frolicking. This scene was often repeated along the way to the Pacific.

Scene VI – "Ocian [Ocean] in View! Oh! the Joy!" In November 1805 at the mouth of the Columbia River, Lewis wrote these words in his diary. The Expedition was originally camped along the north side of the river, an area that is now part of the state of Washington. They were, in the words of Clark, finally within sight of the "great Octean [ocean] which we been So long anxious to See."

Guns Up!

In 1980 while serving as Bandmaster of the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Division, Booker arranged a melody known to the soldiers as "Our Third Armored Division Song" for the use of the band. Documents indicated that the original tune was written in 1945 by Private Chester F. Kowalec of the 33rd Armored Regiment, and according to surviving members of the Spearhead Division (nickname of the 3rd Armored Division) who had served during WWII, the Division Band and Choir sang the song at the last mass gathering of the troops at the close of the war. In 1996, the composer wrote new material to serve as the opening of the march, placing the 1980 setting of "Our Third Armored Division Song" in the position of honor as the march's trio. The introduction to *Guns Up!* quotes "Adjutant's Call" played by the trumpets, trombones, and euphoniums in octaves. The first strain, being more grand and lyrical, contrasts from the second strain, which is more lively and vigorous. With a sudden shift of tonal center, the introduction to the trio begins with the bugle call "To the Colors" which is often performed in place of the National Anthem. The melody of the trio is played first by the clarinets and saxophones, with the flutes, oboes, horns and trumpets joining later. A repeat of the melody, scored for the full band, features a strong bugle-like counter melody in the saxophones and horns. A contrapuntal fanfare for the brass climaxes in a modulation leading to the final statement of the melody, scored in grandioso style, using the same arrangement that military bands of today use when performing the 3rd Armored Division Song during the Pass in Review. Recorded by the Southern Music Wind Symphony, Dr. Mark Rogers, conductor.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the members of the River Valley Community Band for all their continued support. Special thanks to the board of officers who make all things possible. They are Mike Jones, President, Ron Evans, Vice President, Ron Carr, Treasurer, Louann Dooly, Secretary, Daniel Cooper, Keith May, and Jon Taylor, Members-At-Large. Extra special thanks go to my wife of 38 years, Claudette Booker who is not only my biggest fan, but also the librarian for the River Valley Community Band. Thanks to Tom Watkins, Administrator of the Van Buren Fine Arts Center, for allowing the River Valley Community to record in their new Fine Arts Center, and thanks to Mike Jones, Dustin Chambers and Ron Smith, Band Directors of the Van Buren, Arkansas School District for permitting usage of their equipment during the recording session.

About the Band

The River Valley Community Band, founded and conducted by Charles L. Booker, Jr., is a continuation of a proud tradition in the Arkansas River Valley that first began with the Community Band of Western Arkansas established in 1980. It is non-profit organization with a board of officers and consists of business professionals, doctors, teachers, band directors, students homemakers and retirees who played in high school and college band programs and want to continue playing. In addition to their concert performances, the band participates in the ceremonies at the Fort Smith National Cemetery on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. Their concert season culminates with the band's performance at the Mayor's Fourth of July celebration on the Fort Smith riverfront. The band also has performed at the Arkansas Bandmasters Association convention in Fort Smith on July 30, 2008.

River Valley Community Band
Charles L. Booker, Jr., Conductor
*Members of the River Valley Community Band are listed alphabetically to acknowledge each performer's unique contribution.

Piccolo
Sherry Hart
Flute
Carol Andrews
Emily Evans
Leslie Harris
Virginia Hudson
Kathryn Rice
Rebekah Smith
Oboe
Devon Johnston
Tammy Sangster
Bassoon
Louann Dooly
Jordey Wooten
Clarinet
Michelle Allen
Karen Brannon
Jessica Dooly
Logan Isaacs
Carroll Parker
Dixie L. Smith
Sarah Taylor
Jana Wright
Bass Clarinet
Cody Giles
Alto Saxophone
Lane Black
Daniel Cooper
Michael Hanna
Joshua Reed
Tenor Saxophone
Sarah Harris
Baritone Saxophone
Ron Carr
Trumpet
Claudette Booker
Jessica Davis
Ryan Gardner
Adam Gooden
Travis Hutson
Christina Kushnick
Ryan LaFleur
Keith May
Horn
Jeff Peters
Sandy Porter
Cheryl Vann
Trombone
Caleb Capps
Brad Daugherty
Paul Johnston
Mike Jones
Daniel Woodward
Alexandra Zacharella
Euphonium
Keith Brannon
Travis Hempel
Tuba
Kevin Sanders
David Schook
Jon Taylor
Percussion
Brian Bailey
Dustin Chambers
David Ewing
Jim Harris
Christopher Jones
Daniel Munguia
Holly Murphy
Shelby Richison

Charles L. Booker, Jr.

(b. 1952) is Associate Professor of Music at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith where he has served as the Director of Bands, Director of Jazz Studies, and Chair of the Music Department. He currently teaches conducting, music theory, orchestration and composition. Mr. Booker is a composer, and a former U.S. Army Bandmaster, receiving his degrees from the University of the State of New York and the University of Texas at San Antonio. He later completed courses for Texas teacher certification in secondary music at Texas State University. His compositions are published by Alfred, Kendor, Southern Music Company, John Ross Music, and Booker Music. His music has been performed internationally by many high schools, universities and professional bands that include The Army Band ("Pershing's Own"), the U.S. Army Field Band, the U.S. Military Academy Band (West Point), the U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America and the U.S. Air Force Academy Band. During his 21-year military career, he conducted bands in Texas, Louisiana, Germany, New York and Washington, D.C. with performances for the returning American hostages from Iran, two Presidential funerals and inauguration parades, the centennial of the Statue of Liberty, and at the Kennedy Center. Also, he led the U.S. Army Field Band's "Jazz Ambassadors" in concerts in 48 states, India, Japan, Europe, Mexico and Canada. He studied composition with Hank Levy (composer/arranger for Stan Kenton), Dr. Steve Strunk and Dr. James Balentine and conducting with Dr. Robert Garofalo and Dr. Robert Rustowicz. He is a past president of the Arkansas Chapter of College Band Directors National Association, past president of the Arkansas Chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators, a member of the National Band Association, Texas Bandmaster Association and is a member of the executive board of the Arkansas Bandmaster Association. Booker is also a member of the Arkansas Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, band fraternity Kappa Kappa Psi, and honorary music fraternity Pi Kappa Lambda. He is the founder and conductor of the River Valley Community Band of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He has been recognized by the Mayor of Fort Smith (the 2006 "Mayor's Honors to the Visual and performing Arts"), the Northside Independent School District of San Antonio, Texas (the 2008 "Pillars of Character Award") and has received the Arkansas Arts Council Award in music composition for 2009. In 2007, the New Mexico State University Symphonic Winds released a CD entitled "Centra-fuge: The Music of Charles L. Booker, Jr." and in 2008, Mr. Booker released his second CD "American Jubilee: The Music of Charles L. Booker, Jr., Volume II". Both CDs are available for purchase at www.amazon.com or at Mark Custom Recordings. For additional information about his compositions, go to www.charlesbooker.com

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